UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/980
26 November 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 1230 hours on 19 November 1996 an Iraqi patrol boat came under fire from four Kuwaiti patrol boats while it was heading, in performance of its regular duties, from Umm Qasr towards the Mathabah area near buoy 3. The Iraqi boat was hit by a burst of fire that damaged the left side of the bridge.

I request your intervention with Kuwait with a view to halting the repeated and unwarranted acts of aggression carried out by Kuwaiti gunboats against Iraqi vessels. Such acts are in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of public international law, and they create a situation of instability and unrest in this part of the region. I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused to its property by this act of aggression, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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